

FA No to delay bid

HAYES and WYCOMBE yesterday made a joint appeal to the FA for a postponement of their third round FA Trophy tie. Both have long injury lists.

But because of the delays which have caused chaos in the competition, the FA turned down the appeal so the Berger Isthmian League teams must play at Hayes on Wednesday (7.30) with a place in the quarter-finals at stake.

Hayes' manager includes defenders Gordon Bartlett and Neil Bunker, striker Terry Brown and midfielder Laurie Craker.

Wycombe were able to muster only 12 fit players for Saturday's League match with Dulwich.

Billeray, FA Vase winners since 1976, it began four seasons ago, are through to the semi-finals after beating Eastbourne United 1-0.

MICHAEL MELANIPHY

BLUES WAIT FOR HAYES OR CONSETT

WYCOMBE Wanderers will make a return trip to Runcorn if they defeat either Consett or Hayes in the next round. That's the position after a week of hectic action in the FA Trophy, writes MICHAEL KNOX.

When the quarter-final draw was made on Monday, Wycombe, who gained a brilliant 3-0 victory over Blyth Spartans at Loakes Park on Saturday, were faced with all three possibilities. The draw reads: Runcorn or Margate v Consett or Accrington Stanley, or Hayes or Wycombe.

Thanks to two matches played on Monday, the position has been clarified. The Consett v Accrington tie did not go away about six weeks late after the game had been switched to North Shields because of the state of the Consett pitch.

HANDICAP

Despite this handicap Consett triumphed 3-2 and so the Northern League team will be drawn to Runcorn to meet Isthmian League Hayes tomorrow (Saturday). The winners of that match will entertain Wycombe at a date to be arranged.

The draw is likely to be something new to us, so that if the game has to be played in midweek, Blues' players and supporters alike will be hoping

for a Hayes victory tomorrow. But Consett, who have dropped fewer points in the Northern League than Blyth, must start favourites.

Only when that match has been played will Runcorn, the Northern League team known to whom their visitors are. If Wycombe win through, they will be making a return visit to the ground where they were knocked out of the competition two years ago. Wycombe scored two goals after Blues had taken the lead.

The prospect of the Runcorn trip is some way off yet. Wycombe will immediately turn to improving their league position with a victory at home to Dulwich Hamlet tomorrow.

During their Blyth sage Wanderers have slipped four places down the table and their chances of moving up have not been improved by a serious run of injuries.

In addition to Dave Allanson, who will miss the rest of the season after a protracted cartilage operation on his knee, John Priestley, Terry Scott and Howard Kennedy have been affected in some way by injury.

Priestley, injured by a tackle from Blyth's Ron Guthrie, was found to have damaged his knee ligaments — less bad than was feared when he was stretchered

off the field. He will probably be out for two weeks.

Kennedy (injured ankle) and Scott (pulled calf muscle) are both on the mend after missing the Slough game.

To add to Andy Williams' worries is the two-goal suspension given to Mark Judd. It started on Monday and was given for a sending off with a Birmingham club earlier in the season.

Dulwich are the most improved side in the Isthmian League during the past two seasons.

After being relegated, they

bounced right back by last

season taking the Division One title by ten clear points.

IMPROVEMENT

They have continued the improvement this season so effectively that they currently stand second only to Entford ahead of them.

Even more remarkable is the fact that the average of the Dulwich side is just 21. The oldest player, defender Rodney Brooks, is 33 — a year older than their promising manager Alan Smith.

The star of the side is the exciting striker Ossie Bayram, who scored 33 goals last season and already has 17 in this campaign.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION
(Up to Feb. 27)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	26	18	4	8	48	27	52
Brentwood	26	17	5	4	45	26	50
Barking	24	14	7	3	55	35	49
Slough	29	14	10	8	58	30	48
Harrow	31	13	10	8	53	39	47
Dagenham	25	13	3	7	49	37	48
Woking	25	13	7	5	53	43	45
Wycombe	27	13	7	7	52	28	44
Croydon	26	12	6	8	56	26	42
B'ham Wood	31	11	9	4	56	26	41
Leatherhead	26	12	6	8	54	27	41
Hitchin	30	11	8	11	46	48	41
Tooting & M.	28	10	10	8	47	39	39
Wandsworth	31	11	8	12	51	47	39
Oxford City	30	11	5	14	38	54	38
Sutton Cold.	29	10	7	12	43	57	37
Tunbridge Wells	29	10	7	13	43	59	37
Carlton Ath.	29	7	10	12	37	49	31
Hayes	30	7	10	13	37	50	29
Slough Town	28	5	11	12	30	44	26
Kingston	32	3	11	18	25	51	20
Leystone	27	2	4	21	20	59	10

WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

announce the appointment of
Mike Phillips, as Commercial Manager.
He will be responsible for the new £3,500 Bonanza Lottery
now running and all fund raising activities.

Contact Mike at the Lottery Office,
Loakes Park, (High Wycombe
26567)

By MICHAEL KNOX

AFTER 275 minutes of football this season, Wycombe Wanderers finally broke through Slough Town's defensive wall at Loakes Park on Tuesday night. But the goal was not enough to give them victory in this Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final tie.

Following their 1-0 defeat and goalless draw in the two league games against Slough this season, Wycombe seemed set for yet another blank sheet when, despite a host of chances, they failed to score again in the first 90 minutes of this sometimes frenetic encounter.

But five minutes into the deadlock with a somewhat fortuitous goal, they scored an indirect free-kick to the right edge of the penalty area after Stewart Atkins had been obstructed.

It was a goal that had to be scored by someone other than the referee, perhaps wanting justice to be done, waved aside all appeals for a penalty.

If Wycombe had lost, they would have had only themselves to blame, for despite fielding a majority of the other side, they had enough chances in the second half of normal time to have sewn up the result long before the end.

Because of their long injury list and the two-week suspension on Judi, Wycombe were stretched to the limit to find eleven fit players.

Because of injury, Blues were

without Dave Allanson, John

Priestley and Terry Scott, while

a half-fit Howard Kennedy sat

on the substitutes' bench along

with goalkeeper John Maskell. So Blues did not have to call in any of their youth players after all.

Wanderers naturally started in uncertain fashion and the dangerous David Russell twice over-ran the by-line but found positions, while Blues had to be on the alert to save well from Alan Cane's free-kick.

But Blues soon recovered their poise and started putting on their best football, particularly after Paul Birdseye, who was to

have a growing effect on the game from the unaccustomed position of midfield, created a couple of chances for Steve Lee, who is currently playing

Slough went close to snatching what would have been a lucky win when their full-back Tim Turf appeared to be brought down right on the edge of the Wycombe penalty area by the referee, perhaps wanting justice to be done, waved aside all appeals for a penalty.

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WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, S. Hardwick,

H. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, P.

Birdseye, S. Lewis, M. Hobfield, D. Evans,

Russell, E. Feely (lrb), H. Kennedy, J.

Maskell (not used).

SLOUGH: R. Tern, T. Turf, R. McKay,

C. Lewis, J. F. J. Jones, D. P. Howell,

A. Gane, P. Lee (lrb), B. Friend (69 min), B.

Metcalf (lrb), P. Feely (61 min), M. Kiley,

H. Kennedy, E. Feely (Reading),

Half-time: 0-0. Full-time: 0-0.

Scorers: Wycombe — Hollfield (95 min); Slough — Feely (99 min).

Attendance: 750.